

# Freedom Stories in the Free Black Papers

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The top half of the image features a background of numerous thin, vertical lines in various shades of blue and grey, creating a textured, rain-like effect. A solid dark blue horizontal band spans the width of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# Sources

Finding Family History in the Margins

# Tax Records

List of Negroes over the age of 12 years within the District of Geo. W. Cross  
Commissioner of the Revenue for Loudoun County.

Names			Names		
Sex	Age	Occupations	Sex	Age	Occupations
M	22	Farmer	M	40	Farmer
F	35	Washer	M	13	"
M	39	Labourer	M	51	"
F	13	"	M	16	"
F	38	"	M	17	Labourer



# Tax Records

List of Negroes over the age of 15  
Commissioners of the Revenue for L

Names	Sexes	Ages	Occ
Lee Allen	M	22	
Emily A. Byrd	F	3	
Henson Young	M		
Mary Curtis	F	1	
Lucy King	F		



Records of Free Negroes

# Tax Records

List of Negroes over the age of 15  
Commissioners of the Revenue for L

Names	Sexes	Ages	Occ
Lee Allen	M	22	
Emily A. Byrd	F	3	
Henson Young	M		
Mary Curtis	F	1	
Lucy King	F		



# Misc. Papers

Betsy Rust formerly Betsy Crisp. & her Thomas Rust & Lydia E  
Rust children of the said Betsy Rust proved to be free born by the  
Act of Isaac Talom



Register of Deaths  
1853 to 1866

# Register of Deaths 1853 to 1866

## REGISTER

Line numbered.	NAME IN FULL	COLORED.			NAME OF THE OWNER OF SLAVE	SEX.		DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH.	NAME OF DISEASE or CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE.		
		WHITE	Free.	Slave.		Male.	Female.				Years.	Months.	Days.
1	Frances Newton	co						f Feb 28	Greenburg	Disease of the Heart			14
2	Elizabeth Norton	co			Peter Campbell			f July 25	"	Not Known			24
	Anna W. Smith	co						f Nov 21	"	"			2
3	Agnes Moffatt	co						May 1	"	"			54
4	Louisa E. Wright	co						f June 5	"	"			3
	John D. Robinson	co						Nov 11	"	"			3
5	Mary A. Bates	co						f Feb 25	"	"			13
6	Leonard D. Fry	co						f Feb 11	"	"			10
	no name	co						June 5	"	"			25
7	Susan Cordell	co						f June 11	"	"			3
8	Rachel S. Grubb	co						f Feb 25	"	"			4
	no name	co						June 1	"	"			8
9	no name	co						f Feb 11	"	"			3
	no name	co						June 1	"	"			1
	no name	co						f June 11	"	"			1
	no name	co						March 29	"	"			1
	no name	co						f June 1	"	"			1
	no name	co						f Feb 19	"	"			1
	no name	co							"	"			1
	no name	co							"	"			1
	no name	co							"	"			1
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	no name	co</											

# Register of Deaths 1853 to 1866

REGISTER									
Line number.	NAME IN FULL.	COLORED.			NAME OF THE OWNER OF SLAVE.	SEX.		DATE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF DEATH.
		WHITE.	Free.	Slave.		Male.	Female.		
1853									
1	Frances Newton	W						f Feb 28	
2	Elizabeth Moulton	W			Peter Compher			f July 25	
	Anna Off Road	W						f Nov 31	
3	Agnes West	W						f May 1	
4	Lucy E Wright	W						f June 5	
	John D Robinson	W						f Nov 11	
5	Mary A Bates	W						f Feb	
6	Levi W Fay	W						f Feb	
	no name	W							
7	Isaac Cordell	W			John H Thompson			f	
8	Rachel F Grubb	W			James N Corbin			f	
	Isaac	W							
9	no name	W							

## Free Black Criminal Papers

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,  
TO THE SHERIFF OF LOUDOUN COUNTY—GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon *Enoch Garrett Samuel Mcgeath Sidney Hawling Alpheus Gilson Stephen W McCarty and Johnathan Ewers* to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Loudoun, at the Court-House of said county, on the *1<sup>st</sup>* day of *June* Court, 185*8*, to testify and the truth to speak on behalf of the *deft* in a certain matter of controversy depending and undetermined in the said Court, between *us* *deft* and *George Henry Turner*.

And this *they* shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of £100. And have then there this writ.

Witness GEORGE K. FOX, Jr., Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House aforesaid, the *7<sup>th</sup>* day of *June*, 185*8*, and in the *5<sup>th</sup>* Year of the Commonwealth.

*George K. Fox Jr.*

Court commences the Tuesday next after the 21 Monday in each month.

# Loudoun County

Historic Records: Criminal

VIRGINIA

Deeds

Marriage Records

Judgments

Military Indexes

Miscellaneous Papers

Guardian Accounts

Wills

Road Cases

- [Enslaved Issues: Criminal Paper References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Deaths 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Fiduciary References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Misc. Paper References \(PDF\)](#)

## Government

## Services

## Residents

### Free Black Papers: 1757 to 1866

Use the indexes below to obtain the accession or page number of the image you'd like to view. Then click the appropriate link in the images section to find your image.

#### Indexes

- [Free Black Papers 1757 to 1865 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Births 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Criminal Papers References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Deaths 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Misc. Papers References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Record of Free Negroes 1844 to 1861 \(PDF\)](#)

#### Images

- [Free Black Issues: Births](#)
- Free Black Issues: Criminal Papers
  - [1796 - 1834](#)
  - [1835 - 1847](#)
  - [1848 - 1860](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Deaths](#)
- Free Black Issues: Misc. Papers
  - [1759 - 1820](#)

<https://www.loudoun.gov/3423/Black-History>



The background of the slide features a series of vertical lines in various shades of blue and grey, creating a textured, rain-like effect. These lines vary in thickness and opacity, set against a light grey gradient background.

# Family Stories in the Records

Certificates of Freedom and Tax Collector Notes

# Proving Free Status

Loudoun County "Register of Free Negroes, 1844-1861," page 160 (159)

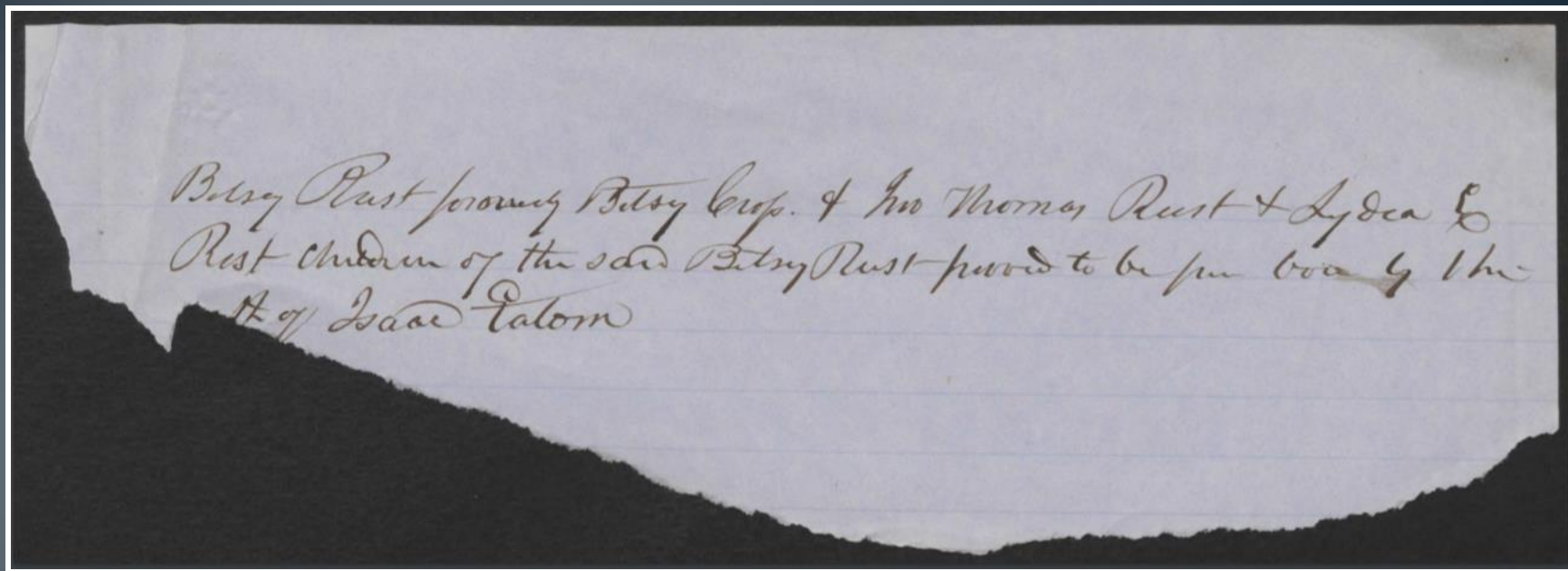
*Copied, sealed & delivered  
13th Octr 1853 by  
Examined & Shown  
Aug 9: 1853*

159

Cornelia E Hogan, is a free wo  
man as appears by deed of manum  
mission from Patrick Hogan. This the  
9 day of Aug. 1853 admitted to record.  
Said Cornelia is of dark complexion,  
=con, round faced & prominent eyes, has  
a scar on the right wrist & a small  
one in the palm of the left hand, is  
about twenty three years of age, 5 feet  
11 1/2 inches high, was this day registered  
in my office according to Law.

No 2011

# Fragments of Lives



Betsy Rust formerly Betsy Cross & Jno  
Thomas Rust & Lydia E. Rust children of the  
said Betsy Rust proved to be free born by the  
oath of Isaac Eatom

Certificate of Freedom, Misc. Papers 1850.13





64 Opatybrania CM. Va MauAAab



I hereby Certify that I was acquainted with Betsey Nighting, and have sufficient reason to believe she was a free woman, and also I have the same reason to believe Betsey Gowing, wife of Peyton Gowing, formerly Betsey Nighting, is the Daughter of Betsey Nighting...and was both of them free Borne...

Solomon Littleton, March 15, 1822

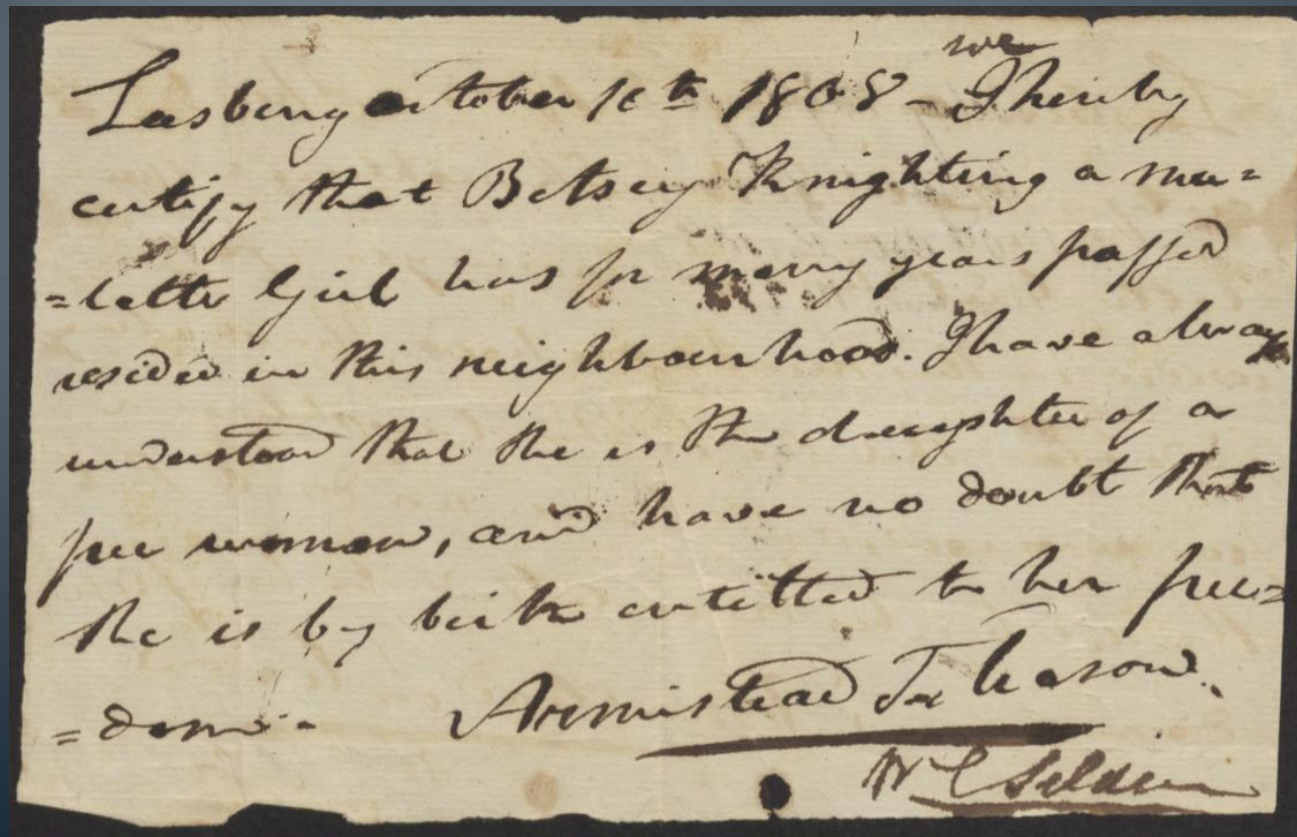
Thereby Certify that I was acquainted with Betsey  
Nighting, and have sufficient reason to believe she was a  
free woman, and also I have the same reason to believe Betsey  
Gowing, <sup>wife of Peyton Gowing</sup> formerly Betsey Nighting, is the Daughter of Betsey  
Nighting, the woman first mentioned above, and was both  
of them free Borne, Given under my hand this fifteenth  
day of March eighteen hundred and twenty two  
Solomon Littleton

Certificate  
of Freedom  
Misc. Papers  
1808.01

# Reputation in the Neighborhood

Betsey Knighting

...I have always understood that she is the daughter of a free woman, and have no doubt that she is by birth entitled to her freedom...



Lasburg October 10<sup>th</sup> 1808<sup>we</sup> I hereby  
certify that Betsey Knighting a mar-  
-rried girl has for many years passed  
resided in this neighbourhood. I have always  
understood that she is the daughter of a  
free woman, and have no doubt that  
she is by birth entitled to her free-  
-dom. Armistead T. Mason.  
W. C. Selden

Armistead T.  
Mason

Certificate  
of Freedom  
Misc. Papers  
1808.01



...that she has known  
Milly Butler (a Black  
Girl) from her Infancy,  
who is about Twenty five  
years of Age, of a  
Middling Size, and  
something pitted with the  
Small Pox, and that she  
knows she was Born free,  
in the Town of  
Colchester, and she  
further swears that she  
was well Acquainted with  
her Mother, and Grand  
Mother, and that they  
were both Free people.

Sturbridge County, Vt.  
Personally Appeared before me, Aba-  
ham Tracy, one of the Justices of Peace  
for said County, Susannah Massey,  
who made Oath on the Holy Evangelists  
That she has known Milly Butler  
(a Black Girl) from her Infancy, who  
is about Twenty five years of Age, of a  
Middling Size, and something pitted  
with the Small Pox, and that she  
knows she was Born free, in the Town  
of Colchester, and she further swears  
that she was well Acquainted with her  
Mother, and Grand Mother, and that they  
were both Free people.  
Given under my Hand this  
22<sup>d</sup> Day of August 1807  
J. Tracy

Affidavit of Susannah Massey,  
Misc. Papers 1807.02

Susan Steptoe	1	36	House work
Milly Butler	1	80	Too Old to work

Milly Butler, age 80 years, "Too Old to work"

1851 "List of Free Negroes over 12 years of age in the District of John Weldon Comm'r Revenue" Misc. Papers 1851.01, page 5

# Tax Records

List of Negroes over the age of 12 years within the District of Geo. W. Horse  
Commissioners of the Revenue for Loudoun County.

Names	Sex	Age	Occupations	Names	Sex	Age	Occupations
Lee Allen	M	22	Team hand	Daniel Boyd	M	40	Team hand
Emily A. Boyd	F	35	Washer	James W. Boyd	M	13	"
Henson Young	M	39	Labourer	Wm. H. Dixon	M	51	"
Mary Curtis	F	13	"	Lewis Davis	M	16	"
Lucy King	F	38	"	Charles Morgan	M	17	Labourer

Age

Gender

Occupation

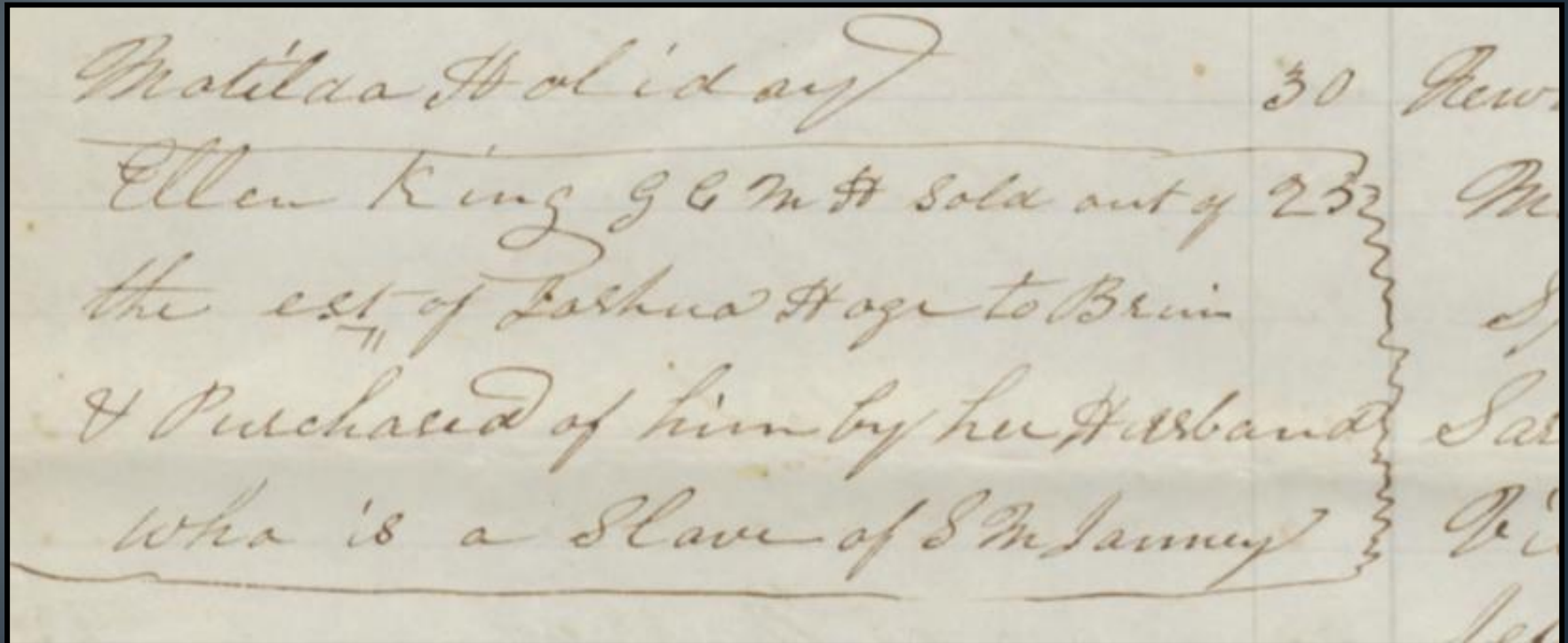
Residence

Emancipation history

Family Relationships



Ellen King [age 25]...sold out of the est[ate] of  
Joshua Hoge to Bruin & Purchased of him by  
her Husband who is a Slave of S M Janney

A photograph of a handwritten entry on aged, lined paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription above. The entry is underlined and includes a date '30 Nov' in the right margin. The paper shows signs of wear, including a vertical crease and some staining.

30 Nov  
Ellen King G C M # sold out of 25  
the est<sup>y</sup> of Joshua Hoge to Bruin  
& Purchased of him by her Husband  
who is a Slave of S M Janney

Jonah Tavenner, "List of Free Negroes above 12 Years  
of Age required to be Listed by Me According to Law,"  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, page 2. Misc. Papers 1857.02

The top half of the image features a background of numerous thin, vertical lines in various shades of blue and grey, creating a textured, rain-like effect. A solid blue horizontal band spans the width of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# Surveillance

Court Records as Texts of Trauma

# Working Lives



Culpeper, Virginia, Stacking Wheat. September 26, 1863. Library of Congress



# List of Free Negroes over 12 Years of Age in the District of John Weaden Comm'r Revenue for the Year 1851

*List of Free Negroes over 12 Years of age in the District  
of John Weaden Comm'r. Revenue for the Year 1851*

<i>Names</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Free males</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
<i>Thomas Sinkfield</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
<i>Samuel Sinkfield</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>27</i>	<i>do</i>
<i>Abraham Sinkfield</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>For wife &amp; wife</i>
<i>John Sinkfield</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>House work</i>
<i>Samuel Murray</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>Farming</i>
<i>Elizabeth Murray</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>House work</i>

# Tracking Employment and Industry

Barney Nickens	1	"	55	Cooper
Mary Nickens		1	40	House work
James Henry Nickens	1	"	21	Day work
Elizabeth Nickens		1	19	House work
Samuel Nickens	1	"	12	Childrens work

1851 "List of Free Negroes  
over 12 years of age in the  
District of John Weldon,  
Comm'r Revenue"  
Document 1851.01

Cooper  
House Work  
Day Work  
House Work  
Childrens work

# Tracking Employment and Industry

Names	Male	Female	Age	Occupation
Nancy Jackson	"	1	14	House work
John Jackson	1	"	12	Nothing but play
Rosannah Thomas	"	1	80	Do not work
...	...	...	...	...

“Nothing but play”

Alfred Robinson	1	"	15	No employment
...	...	...	...	...

“No Employment”

1851 “List of Free Negroes over 12 years of age in the District of John Weadon Comm’r Revenue” Misc. Papers 1851.01



# Age, Employment, and Industry

Geo Bayan	1	12	Labourer
Hannah Butler	1	91	Washer

Washer

Betsy Coats	1	72	Washer
-------------	---	----	--------

Washer

List of Free Negroes over the Age of 12 years, Specifying their Names, Ages, Trades, or Occupations in the District of Geo. K. Fox Commissioner of the Revenue for the year 1851 (Misc. Papers, 1851.02)

Indah Gaskins	"	1	62	Too old to work
Mary Gaskins	1	"		

“Too old to work”

1851 “List of Free Negroes over 12 years of age in the District of John Weadon Comm’r Revenue” (Misc. Papers, 1851.01)



The top half of the image features a background of numerous thin, vertical lines in various shades of blue and grey, creating a textured, rain-like effect. A solid blue horizontal band spans the width of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# Strength

Stories of Perseverance and Courage



*A Collection of All Such Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia of a Public and Permanent Nature as have been Passed since the Session of 1801, Vol. II, Richmond: Printed by Samuel Pleasants, Jr., 1808, page 97.*

**CHAP. LXIX.**

*An Act to amend the several Laws concerning Slaves.\**

[Passed January 25, 1806.]

1. **B**E it enacted by the General Assembly, That if any slave or slaves shall hereafter be brought into this commonwealth, Slaves bro't into this state may be sold, &c.

10. *And be it further enacted,* That if any slave hereafter emancipated, shall remain within this commonwealth more than twelve months after his or her right to freedom shall have accrued, he or she shall forfeit all such right, and may be apprehended and sold by the overseers of the poor of any county or corporation, in which he or she shall be found, for the benefit of the poor of such county or corporation. Emancipated slaves forfeit freedom by remaining twelve months.

*A Collection of All Such Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia of a Public and Permanent Nature as have been Passed since the Session of 1801, Vol. II, Richmond: Printed by Samuel Pleasants, Jr., 1808, page 97.*

### CHAP. LXIX.

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[Passed January 25, 1806.]

1. **DE** it enacted by the General Assembly, That if any slave or slaves bro't into

...he or she shall forfeit all such right,  
and may be apprehended and sold...

months after his or her right to freedom shall have accrued, he or she shall forfeit all such right, and may be apprehended and sold by the overseers of the poor of any county or corporation, in which he or she shall be found, for the benefit of the poor of such county or corporation.

freedom by re-  
maining twelve  
months.

Wheat

Indictment

Henry

George Turner, a freemason

For remaining in the  
State without law  
for m-pior

a true bill

1858 March 8:  
Indictment and  
summons to answer

Criminal Papers  
FB1858-21



...remaining in the State of Virginia without  
lawful permission, against the peace and dignity  
of the Commonwealth...

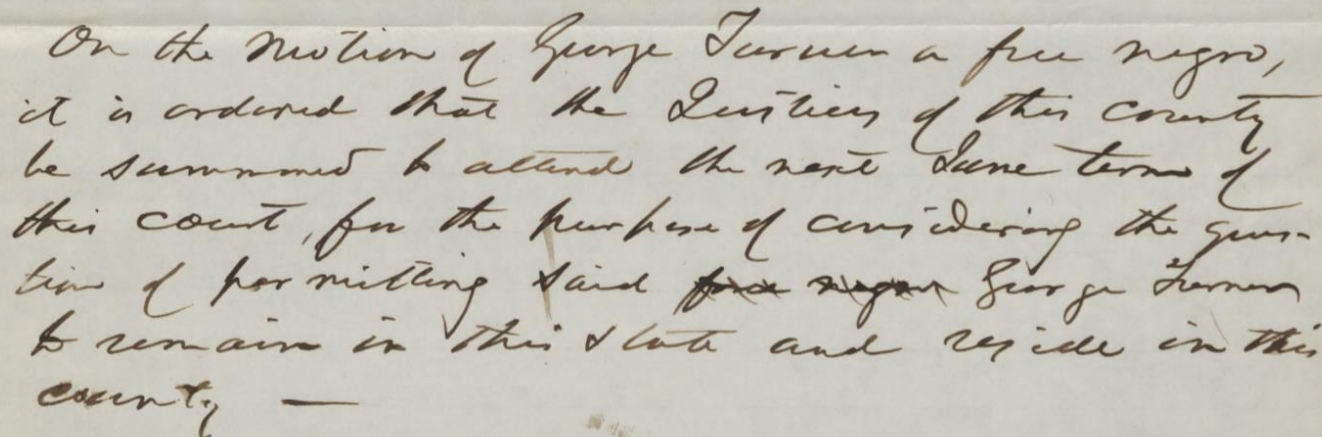
And The Jurors aforesaid  
upon their oaths aforesaid do further present  
that ~~that~~ the said George <sup>Henry</sup> Turner, a free negro,  
was emancipated since the first day of May  
in the year eighteen hundred and Six and  
that the said George <sup>Henry</sup> Turner is now at the  
County aforesaid, remaining in the State of  
Virginia, without lawful permission, against  
the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth

Richard C. McConarty  
of the County of Loudoun  
Prosecutor & sworn and  
sent to the Grand Jury  
to give evidence at his  
own request Geo. K. Fox, cc.

Charles B. Webb  
attorney for the  
Commonwealth for  
the County of Loudoun

Criminal Papers  
FB1858-21

On the motion of George Turner a free negro,  
it is ordered that the Justices of this county be  
summoned to attend the next June term of this  
court, for the purpose of considering the  
question of permitting said ~~free negro~~ George  
Turner to remain in this state and reside in this  
county.



On the motion of George Turner a free negro,  
it is ordered that the Justices of this county  
be summoned to attend the next June term of  
this court, for the purpose of considering the ques-  
tion of permitting said ~~free negro~~ George Turner  
to remain in this state and reside in this  
county —

Misc. Papers  
FB1858-18

Notice is hereby given that I shall apply to the county court of Loudon...for permission to be granted to George Henry Turner, a free man of color to remain in the state of Virginia and reside in said county of Loudoun...



Loudoun County  
Courthouse 1815

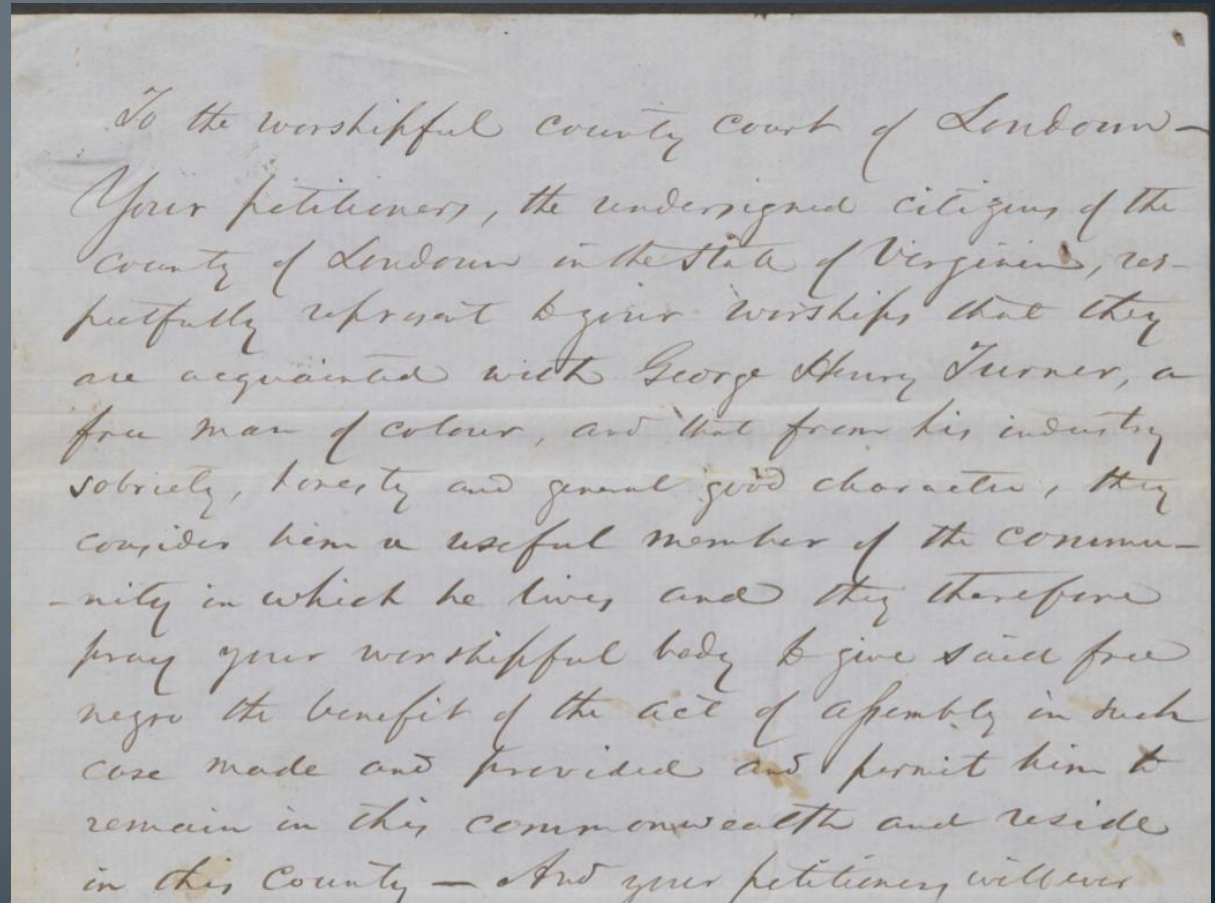
*Notice is hereby given that I shall apply to the County Court of Loudoun, at its next June term, for permission to be granted to George Henry Turner, a free man of color to remain in the State of Virginia and reside in said county of Loudoun, according to the provisions of the act of Assembly in such case made and provided -*

*Chas. H. Brown  
att. for applt.*

Free Black Criminal Papers  
FB1858-21



...are acquainted with George Henry Turner, a free man of colour, and that from his industry, sobriety, honest and general good character, they consider him a useful member of the community in which he lives...



To the worshipful County Court of Loudoun -  
Your petitioners, the undersigned citizens of the County of Loudoun in the State of Virginia, respectfully represent to your worship that they are acquainted with George Henry Turner, a free man of colour, and that from his industry, sobriety, honesty and general good character, they consider him a useful member of the Community in which he lives, and they therefore pray your worshipful body to give said free negro the benefit of the act of assembly in such case made and provided and permit him to remain in this Commonwealth and reside in this County - And your petitioners will ever

...respectfully represent to your worships that this s[ai]d negroe is in their opinion unworthy of having this privalege (sic) granted to him & therefore ask that you will reject his application..."

To the Hon Justices of the County  
Court of Loudoun

The undersigned Citizens of Loudoun County conduct-  
and that a Memorial is in circulation requesting your  
worships to permit a free negroe man, George Henry  
Turner, to remain in the s<sup>d</sup> County. Respectfully represent-  
to your worships that the s<sup>d</sup> negroe is in their opinion unworthy  
of having this privalege granted to him & therefore ask  
that you will reject his application

They do not deem it necessary to state  
fully their objections to the s<sup>d</sup> negroes remaining here, but  
sufficient to say that he is strongly suspected of aiding &  
abetting in the escape of Slaves from the County & at a  
time like this when the most reliable portions of our slave

Free Black  
Criminal Papers  
FB1858-21

Wheat

Indictment

Henry

George Turner, a freemason

For remaining in the  
State without law  
for m-pion

a true bill

1858 March 8:

Indictment and  
summons to answer

1858 petition denied

1858 Aug. 10:

Summons to appear  
at November court

1859 March 18:

continued to June



...to shew if any thing for himself he hath or knows to say why the said Court should not then and there proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law...

him was alleged. Therefore we command you, that you do not omit for any liberty in your bailiwick, but that you take the said George Henry Turner, if he be found within the same and him, safely keep, so that you have his body before the Justices of our said Court, at the Court House aforesaid on the first day of June next 1859, to shew if any thing for himself - he hath or knows to say why the said Court should not then and there proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law, And further to do and submit to and receive what our said Court then and there of him in this part shall consider, And have them there this writ. Witness George K. Ford J. Clerk of our said Court, at the Courthouse aforesaid, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1859, and in the 83<sup>rd</sup> year of the Commonwealth -

Wheat

Indictment

Henry

George Turner, a freemason

For remaining in the  
State without law  
for m-pion

a true bill

1858 March 8:

Indictment and summons  
to answer

1858 petition denied

1858 Aug. 10:

Summons to appear at  
November court

1859 March 18:

continued to June

1859 May 28:

Called to appear  
Not found

1859 Nov. 17:

Nolle prosequi

George H. Turner not found in my Bailiwick  
has removed to the State of Ohio as I am  
informed and believe

Jonah Tavenner, DS [Deputy Sheriff]  
for D. Hixson

George H. Turner not found in my Bailiwick has removed  
to the State of Ohio as I am informed and believe.

Jonah Tavenner, DS  
for D. Hixson

CU1858-2

Summons, dated May 28, 1859, for George  
Henry Turner to appear in court on June 1, 1859

Free Black Criminal  
Papers FB1858-21



# Freedom Stories in the Free Black Papers

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